

The Common Cause

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Notes and News.

November 1st and What It Means to Women.

To all those who have striven for greater citizenship for women the Local Government Elections which take place on Saturday, November 1st, represent a hard-won goal. It is true that in previous elections of the kind there have been opportunities for women both as candidates and electors, but this is the first occasion on which the greatly increased electorate has had an opportunity of expressing an opinion. Thoroughly to appreciate the significance of this election, two important points have to be considered, the peculiar character of the new electorate, and the undertakings which face the new Councils and the relation of one to the other should be noted. On the old Local Government register there were very few married women as such; now the married woman, albeit not till she has attained the great age of thirty, has a vote by reason of her state as the wife of a man who is himself on the Local Government register, and this emphasises her interest as wife and mother in the proper conduct of local matters. The administrative work which is in the hands of our Town and Borough Councils, deals with the matters which closely affect the lives of women as wives and mothers—Housing, Education, and Health—with all the issues connected with them—such as street cleaning, refuse collection, registration of births, the care of mother and babe, the establishment of nursery and continuation schools, the provision of libraries, wash-houses, baths, open spaces, allotments, &c. What are all these matters but the wide extension of home work and family problems, and who so fitted to help in wise administration as men and women together, acknowledging the dual responsibility for good "Home" or "Local" Rule? There have been, and unfortunately still are, numbers of men and women who consider these questions dull and uninteresting, but we are glad to note a growing sense of what we once heard described as "Borough Patriotism" even amongst young people; clubs, either mixed or of one sex only, listen eagerly to talks on Housing, Education and Health, and are quick with suggestions and discussion. Since the last elections in 1912 some very important Acts of Parliament have been passed, on Education, Housing and Public Health. The greater range of activity and responsibility created by these Acts makes participation in Local Government, whether as an elector or an administrator, one of the greatest privileges and duties which

have been conferred on English women for many years. It is clear that a great deal lies before girls in civil work, both professional and voluntary. Municipal authorities employ Doctors, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, and these are all posts which can be well filled by women. As women are also qualifying as Architects and Accountants, there are many professional ways of joining men in public life. It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of this election; on the Councilors sent in now, be they men or women, will depend the lives and comfort of thousands of people. Good laws have been made, but lax or vacillating administration will be disastrous; more than material good is in the hands of our civic authorities; their inaction can foster discontent and create bitter and angry feeling; unselfish and far-seeing work can create peace at home and develop the best characteristics of our citizens, young or old. It is not an easy task: study, patience, humility and sympathy are all needed before the finest service can be rendered. Apathy is due more to ignorance than to real indifference, and a common desire to learn and to serve should unite all classes of the community in this great public work.

A New Beginning in Local Government.

The Local Government Act is already forty-four years old; we have had thirty years of rural local government by County, District, and Borough Councils, and the London Metropolitan Boroughs superseded the old vestries twenty years ago. Yet up to now these great reforms have only very partially succeeded in awaking real interest and responsibility in Local Government matters. The destruction of an over-centralised system which gave to bodies impartial, because they were uninformed and indifferent, the decision as to matters vitally important to our towns and villages, should have been followed by a determination by those who now had their well-being in their own hands, to put their best efforts into the management of their local affairs. This did not happen. Nor did the Boroughs, now endowed with a passably democratic franchise, take their position much more seriously. The constituents of local bodies of all kinds have shown a quite surprising indifference to their composition and their proceedings. A constituency which is uninterested is never truly represented; it is spoken for and governed by persons who merely happen to it, being the chosen not of the locality but of the few enfranchised inhabitants, whom public spirit, self-interest, a desire to lower the rates, or a party allegiance prompt to record their votes. A body which affects to be representative but is not so in fact seldom does even the poor best of which it is capable, and its large measure of incompetence in turn reacts upon that apathy of the electors which everyone deplors. During the seven years just past, the already unrepresentative have become more than ever alien from their constituents by mere lapse of time without elections. And during the last year the electorate has been so immensely increased that, in London alone, the number of women on the municipal register has increased from 120,000 to 800,000. This is the time to make a new start in Local Government, and to reap some of the harvest which twenty years half-hearted attempt to rule our own towns ourselves has left still ungarnered.

The New Women Voters.

The women local government electors before 1918 were almost all unmarried or widowed. The enfranchisement of the wives of local government electors, even though it excludes married women under thirty, not only gives women much greater numerical weight in local affairs, but puts an end, once and for all, to the always unjustifiable assertion that the female municipal vote was a crank vote, an anti-man vote, the vote of women without the normal interests and normal experience of life. It also immensely increases the proportion of women of an age to interest themselves in public welfare, and decreases the propor-

tion of aged and infirm widows who under the old franchise seemed to account for about half of the woman's vote in many boroughs, and exercised their privileges little more than men of the same age. The new franchise makes impossible a repetition of the Southwark Guardians' elections, when a total of two hundred and forty-six voters, male and female, took part in an election in which twelve thousand persons were entitled to have a voice. The new women voters of London and the provinces are not merely six or seven times more numerous than at the time of the last borough elections; they are now almost as fully representative of their sex as the male electors are of theirs.

The Women Candidates.

The great increase of married women voters does not necessarily mean that the candidates supported will be themselves married women, but in the list of London candidates single women are, as a matter of fact, much in the minority. Camberwell, for instance, has only one spinster to ten matrons, and Hampstead two out of eighteen. A considerable number of candidates desire to speak especially as representatives of home-staying women, but the lists contain a very good proportion of women with special qualifications in the way of special knowledge and experience, which will enable them to give an expert opinion upon the business of any Council to which they may be elected. The provincial borough elections, being later than those in London, the lists of candidates proposing to stand for them are far from complete. But we are able to give instances of women who will supply exactly the instructed yet open-minded body of opinion which will be needed when the specially urgent questions of housing and other specifically health measures come to be considered. Take, for instance, Miss Agnes Mott, who is supported in Marylebone by the Women's Municipal Society, the Women's Local Government Society, and the Mothers' Defence League. She has worked as a sanitary inspector for the last eight years in London and in large provincial towns. She has the Diploma of Hygiene and Public Health Law of the University of London, and is a certified midwife. Mrs. Somerville, standing for an Edinburgh ward, has been chairman for many years of the Edinburgh Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. Miss Mildred Ransom, who is a qualified sanitary inspector, and takes particular interest in baths and wash-houses, is, however, better known as Chairman of all the War Pensions Committees of Paddington. Nor will she need to serve any apprenticeship before taking her full part in the proceedings of the Council if it is so fortunate as to have her co-operation, for she is an expert in the conduct of public business, and as author of the "Chairman's Handbook," has taught many public servants all they know of the law and etiquette of public meetings.

Training Schools for the Councils.

A large number of women candidates have had their training in administrative work as Poor Law Guardians, and few fields of work could be more appropriate than this for maturing a sound judgment of town problems. Guardian's work also gives an insight into finance, which is especially necessary at this time, when the coat we need is so very large and the available cloth for its construction seems to shrink week by week as prices rise and local and imperial revenues remain as good as stationary. This year, however, the ex-guardians have many rivals in women who have made their mark in war work, both as fellow-workers with men and in responsible positions in relief work, such as that of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and many of the voluntary hospitals which were almost exclusively administered by women. Space fails us to mention by name the women whose special qualifications are of this kind, but it must be noticed that no men candidates are likely to have the sanitary inspectors' or Red Cross experience. And certainly no male candidate is a qualified midwife.

Women and the Party Ticket.

In previous Local Government elections a good many women have stood as Independents, both because they were seldom adopted by the party organisations, and because they were themselves unable to take a sufficiently marked party standpoint. The drawbacks to being an Independent candidate were two-fold: they had less chance of success than those who stood on the party ticket, and, if elected, they were less certain of a backing inside the Council. This year the situation is somewhat altered. A good many persons are so convinced of the need for women on the Councils that they are willing to sink party prejudices; consequently it is quite common for a woman recommended by a Women Citizens' Association or by the

Women's Local Government Society to be supported by both Liberals and Conservatives. The Labour Party, with great enterprise, is attempting to obtain an equal number of male and female candidates for the many seats it is contesting. The Independent women candidates will, therefore, be at little disadvantage this year, and the Local Government elections will tend to revert to what they were in earlier years when politics, strictly so-called, played a less important part in local contests than in 1912.

Programme of the Edinburgh Non-Party Committee.

Edinburgh has a strong non-party Committee for furthering the candidature of women for Town and Parish Councils. Its programme is very comprehensive, but begins with an item often overlooked in ambitious drafts of necessary reforms. It calls for the enforcement of: the Dairies Act, 1914, the Children Act, 1908, the Temperance (Scotland) Act, 1913, and demands that all laws affecting the moral conditions of the city be more strictly enforced. As a means to this end it suggests that Advisory Committees of equal numbers of men and women, be appointed by the Town Council on Housing, Public Health, Food, and Transit; that women be enrolled as part of the Police Force with powers; that trained paid women be appointed as Probation Officers in Courts. Some such clause might well form part of the programme of all women candidates for municipal honours. Women have the qualities of their defects, and the silver lining to a tendency towards over-anxiety and "nagging" is the tenacity which returns again and again to the charge when a man might give up the fight to get his orders carried out, from very weariness.

Cambridge Women Candidates for Town Council.

The Cambridge Town Council has at present four women members, all of whom have been returned unopposed at by-elections. Two of them, however, will have to fight for their seats on November 1st, when their term of office comes to an end. This is the first time that women in Cambridge have been concerned in this particular form of municipal contest, and the result is awaited with keen interest. The Councillors standing for re-election are Mrs. Keynes (Fitzwilliam Ward) and Mrs. Stevenson (North Chesterton Ward). Both Mrs. Keynes and Mrs. Stevenson have done excellent work as Poor Law Guardians, on the Cambridge and Chesterton Boards respectively. Mrs. Keynes has put in five years of service on the Town Council where her work has been greatly admired. She has been intimately concerned with the work of the Health and Housing Committees, and has taken an active part in the scheme for transforming the First Eastern Military Hospital into temporary dwellings for the overcrowded population of the town. The establishment of the Tuberculosis Colony at Papworth has been largely due to her zeal and practical abilities. The record of her work also includes the Chairmanship of the Cambridge Branch of the National Council of Women and the labours of Hon. Secretary to the Cambridge Central Aid and Charity Organisation Society. Mrs. Stevenson has done much good work for the Suffrage cause in Cambridge as a member of the local (National Union) Committee. She is a particularly able speaker and no less valuable in detailed committee work. As a former member of the teaching profession, she is keenly interested both in education and in promoting the best interests of those who do the nation's work. Living on the borders of a rural district, she has exerted herself on behalf of allotment holders. She is experienced in dealing with health questions, is particularly eager to improve the whole poor-law administration, and, as a staunch democrat, proclaims the principle of equal pay for equal work. Both Mrs. Keynes and Mrs. Stevenson stand as independent candidates and are receiving the enthusiastic support of the Cambridge and District Women Citizens' Association.

Proportional Representation in Ireland.

A very successful meeting was held at the Mansion House, Dublin, on October 14th, under the auspices of the National Council of Women, Dublin Branch, and the Irish Women Citizens' and Local Government Association. The Proportional Representation Society of Ireland also co-operated. The feature of the evening was a model election, conducted on the principle of P.R. The result was interesting. Candidates apparently in a hopeless minority on the first count, came out in quite a good place on later counts, and it was clear that no candidate could possibly sweep the board. The number of papers filled in was 381, and there was only one spoiled paper; thus proving there is no overwhelming difficulty in P.R., at least for the voter. The party candidates naturally headed the poll, but by the later counts non-party names also appeared

among the elected. In addition to the model election, addresses were given on the duties of voters, and especial emphasis was laid on the need for putting forward competent women, as the efficiency of the new legislation so largely depends on the local bodies to be elected in January. It is satisfactory that the first public meeting held in Dublin in connection with P.R. should be under the auspices of the women's organisations, and certainly the pioneer Local Government Association of Ireland shows no signs of resting on its laurels.

"Relief" for Widows.

A correspondent in East London, who writes that each Friday she reads, notes, and marks THE COMMON CAUSE, and passes it on to fellow-workers, tells us of the support she finds in her experience for our appeal that children should be kept with their mothers. She says: "Some very good widowed mothers I know go to and fro to their work 'greeting' for their children, and though these are in good and kind institutions, the little ones generally whisper longingly to any visitor they are left with, 'When can I go to mother?'" A poor widow who was a neighbour of our correspondent recently said to her: "I have done no wrong, but lose my dear husband, yet the only help you give is to offer to relieve me of his children." Such help may well seem "cold as ice" to the toilers, and our appeal for effective legislation—for widows' pensions—meets with a passionate response in the hearts of many poor women.

A "Successful" Widow.

Here is a case, also sent from East London, which is only not typical because the widow it concerns is more fortunate than some in being able to earn a comparatively good wage. Her husband was first a sailor, then, when his marriage made him wish for work in England, he became a railwayman, doing engineering jobs near his home. It was a very happy home. Each of the children we are told, "brought a closer sense of home joy." The father, who was a skilled carpenter and something of an artist, made furniture and helped his wife to beautify the house. Five years ago, however, he died suddenly of heart failure. His wife now earns 46s. per week as a railway checker at a traffic gate. Some three hundred men's loads pass through her hands, and she is said never to make a "wrong return." She is, then, a good worker in a good job, but she has had a long struggle beforehand, and we all know that the price of living has now gone up by more than a hundred per cent. She has had to sell her furniture bit by bit; her home has now only the bare necessities; her little stock of blankets and sheets has worn down to a minimum; her children have no overcoats; none of the six have any warm underclothing. The mother has to be away from the children all day, and though they faithfully obey her capable and full instructions (the eldest little boy even undertaking the darning of the family's stockings in order to "save mother") the home is a dreary place without her, and there is a constant sense of struggle, and the terrible fear which hangs over those whose children are utterly dependent on the health and strength of one parent striving against overpowering odds. The cases we quote show the alternatives the poor widow has to face; a battle for life, almost harder than mortal can bear, or the bitter gift of being "relieved" of her children. We hope that our legislators, now re-assembling at Westminster, will consider these things.

English Ideas in South Africa.

We have received from South Africa an account of a deputation of women received by General Smuts, the Prime Minister, on September 20th. There were presented: Mrs. Hartnoll, Vice-President of the Women's Enfranchisement League, and representatives of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Women Citizens' Club, and women in the medical and nursing professions, in business, farming, and housewifery. General Smuts discussed the position with the deputation from many points of view. He questioned the woman farmer about the attitude of countrywomen, and Mrs. Thoday about the result of the women's vote in England, and so on. Altogether he was evidently very much interested, but he did not prophecy any advance in the direction of Women's Suffrage before the next election. Suffragists in England will be interested to hear that the work of organising the deputation and the memorial presented at it has been largely carried out by the efforts of Mrs. Thoday, a former member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. General Smuts is said to have remarked, "I have often heard of Mrs. Thoday; she is bringing her English ideas here." We think that Women's Suffrage is among the best of the English ideas which have been introduced into Africa; but the Women's Enfranchisement League of the Cape Province existed some time

before Mrs. Thoday transferred her Suffrage activity from this country to the Cape. The officers are Lady Innes (Hon. President), Mrs. Burton (President), Mrs. Solly and Mrs. Herrman (Treasurers). Mrs. Thoday has been acting as Hon. Secretary to the Memorial Committee, and has been exceedingly successful in organising it. Suffragists in South Africa have, however, an up-hill task, and we fear there is little hope that a Suffrage Bill will be passed, as the deputation demands, in time for women to take their due share in the work of reconstruction. Yet women's help is as much needed in South Africa as in America or Europe.

An Indefatigable and Undefeated Champion of Freedom.

Among all the statesmen of different nations who received deputations from representatives of the Women's Movement in Paris this Spring, none met them with more sympathy than M. Venizelos, the illustrious Prime Minister of Greece. Since he has been in England, M. Venizelos has renewed his friendly relations with them. He showed instant appreciation of Mrs. Fawcett's desire that he should meet some representatives of the British movement, and the gathering took place at her house on the afternoon of October 17th. In welcoming M. Venizelos, Mrs. Fawcett quoted Mr. Asquith's description of him as "the indefatigable and undefeated champion of freedom, a man than whom none at this moment speaks with more authority and few with the same in the Councils of Europe." She spoke of the deputations in the spring and of her strong desire that M. Venizelos should not leave England without meeting some of the women who have taken a leading part here. She briefly described the course of the movement in this country. It had begun, she said, with the demand for the higher education of women. Then had come the entry of women into medicine and other professions. Then all our energies had been concentrated on the struggle for the vote and International Co-operation had begun. During the war the efforts of British women had been turned to the service of their country. Mrs. Fawcett then presented to M. Venizelos representatives of these successive periods in the development of the movement and of the different sections. She began by expressing her regret that Miss Emily Davies, one of the pioneers of that demand for education which was the foundation of it all, was prevented by reasons of health from being present.

British Representatives of the Women's Movement.

Among those who were introduced to M. Venizelos were: Miss Meta Tuke (Principal of Bedford College), Miss Phillpotts (Principal of Westfield College), and Miss Aldrich Blake (Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women), representatives of Education; Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, Dr. Flora Murray, and Dr. Jane Walker, representative Medical Women; Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone (President of the N.U.S.E.C.), Miss Rosamond Smith (Treasurer), Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary Secretary from 1915 to 1918), Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and Mrs. How Martyn (of the Women's Freedom League), all these representing the Suffrage Movement; the Countess of Aberdeen and Tremair (President of the International Council of Women), and Mrs. Abbott (Editor of *Jus Suffragii*), with Mrs. Fawcett herself, represented the International Women's Movement; Miss E. Pictou-Turbervill also stood for international work, standing for that great share of it which is carried on by the Young Women's Christian Association; Miss Philippa Strachey represented Women's Service; and Miss Palliser and Mrs. Flinders Petrie the Scottish Women's Hospitals, while Miss Lowndes (standing for the *Englishwoman*), Mrs. Edmund Garrett (Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE from 1914 to 1917), and Miss O'Malley (the present Editor), represented the journalism of the British Women's Movement. The shortness of the notice at which the gathering had had to be summoned in order to fit in with the engagements of M. Venizelos had prevented many of those invited from being able to attend. Much regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of the Countess of Selborne and of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon and Mrs. Creighton (the President and ex-President of the National Council of Women). M. Venizelos, in replying to Mrs. Fawcett, spoke of the Women's Movement as "the most characteristic movement of the age." He said the war had given women the opportunity of demonstrating their capability of sharing all the efforts of men, and had converted even those who were formerly anti-feminists. He expressed his pleasure at meeting so many of those who were spending their lives in furthering the aims of humanity. In the latter part of the afternoon M. Venizelos and the Greek Minister to Britain who came with him had much pleasant conversation with the representatives of the Women's Movement.

WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

HERE seems at last a good opportunity for women to come forward in large numbers as candidates for Borough and Town Councils, and a good prospect that they will avail themselves of the occasion. In London alone it is said that considerably over a hundred women are standing in the elections for the twenty-nine Boroughs, and yet the cry is heard that "women will not come forward for public work." There is generally some foundation for such complaints and in the present case it is more than probable that there is a difficulty in getting the right type of woman to come forward. What most people would consider the right type of woman is the woman who has already won her spurs as organiser, administrator, speaker, or, at the very least, has specialised in some busy branch of philanthropic and social work. Women of this kind are apt to refuse an invitation to assume fresh responsibilities at the cost of work already undertaken, and are all the more ready to do so now that the necessity for pioneers to prove the capability of women in local government is passing away. In the case of men, the fact that a man has made good in his business or profession provides a guide to his capabilities; his character and temperament can be estimated, and a suitable choice is made without much difficulty. Women are known to a narrower circle and find themselves without the means of demonstrating their capacity.

It may be suspected too that among the members of selection committees there are men of the type of those heads of a great government factory for munitions who, on yielding with some reluctance to the need for the introduction of women on repetition work of a particularly easy character, during the war, stipulated that as many as possible of the new workers should hold a University degree; in the belief, apparently, that only the highest form of education could fit a woman to compete with a man. Men with this point of view will reject as a candidate almost any woman who is likely to be able to stand. But members of selection committees are not all of this type. There are some to whom the most acceptable kind of woman is the one who is not likely to be much trouble on a committee, who will fall in with the chairman's wishes and refrain from bringing forward anything which will prolong the proceedings. It is only fair to say that this kind of invertebrate woman candidate is rarely found; her natural diffidence—the cause of her popularity as a possible candidate—is usually sufficient to ensure her refusal to stand the brunt of an election. Natural diffidence, however, is by no means always allied with incapacity. When we consider the position of women in the State for centuries, it is surprising that any spark of initiative or independence has been left burning within them. Fortunately for mankind, that spark has not been extinguished and was found to be burning brightly in the days of war, when women slipped quietly into the vacant places and helped to keep the country's work going. But it is impossible to ignore the effect on women of being held for so long in low esteem, and it is occasionally shown in a reluctance to assume responsibility or to undertake any service which will entail publicity.

Again, women have only recently begun to take an interest in politics and many of them hesitate, in the present rather abnormal state of the political parties, to take sides. The only chance for a woman without strongly marked party views is to

stand as an independent, and this will entail perhaps three times the expenditure and much additional trouble and time in organising the election campaign.

It is satisfactory to notice that even in reactionary circles there is now a general agreement that a certain proportion of the places should be allotted to women. Sometimes this is done in the hope of securing the support for the party of the women's vote. On the other hand, it is not uncommon to be assured that "the women voters simply will not vote for a woman at any price." (The voice of the male anti-feminist—not yet extinct—will be recognised.) There must, of course, be women, to whom allusion has already been made, who do not believe in themselves, and for the same reasons refuse to believe in other women. But these are exceptional and are, after all, only the relics of an outworn tradition. The woman of the present (and of the future), though she is still inarticulate and will with difficulty be induced to attend public meetings, believes in the need for the representation of women by women, and wishes a sympathetic "good luck" to the candidate on her rounds of canvassing.

In spite of the wonderful advance in public opinion respecting the service of women on local authorities, we are still far from equality. The candidature of women as such must be pushed vigorously, and in a well-organised way. It is not yet possible to expect that the relative merits of a possible man or woman candidate will be weighed without reference to their sex. Pending the arrival of that ideal state of things, women will be well advised to turn their attention to the local selection committees; those bodies mysterious to most of us, secretive in their ways, and yet all powerful in these matters.

There is no doubt that the adoption of Proportional Representation would give the independent candidate a better chance and lessen the preponderating influence of the party selection committees. It is before and during election time that the political party influence is strongest. Once elected, a woman councillor will find herself in most cases able to exercise her own judgment and this is all to the good. It must not be imagined that party influence is undesirable in every respect. To combine with others in the pursuit of social ideals is a sign of intelligence and the only means open to many people of making some progress towards the goal of their social and civic desires. The fact that a candidate is associated with a political party shows the tread of his or her mind, and affords a rough and ready means of choice to the average elector, to whom, especially in the big towns, the individual candidate may be quite unknown. It is sometimes overlooked that the political parties, with all their disadvantages, correspond roughly with the main divisions of human thought. But when all this is said there is room for the candidate who cannot fit herself into the party frame, and it is a misfortune that as things stand her chances of election are so small.

It is to be hoped that November 1st will see the election of a strong contingent of women on the majority of the Councils. The country is to be congratulated on the quality of the candidates, who are eager and willing to take up duties which, to a great extent are wholly prosaic, and yet are the foundations of the daily life of the people.

ROSAMOND SMITH.

Rates and their History.

By EDITH PLACE.

Perhaps my readers will pardon me if, as a Londoner, I base this article on a study of a Rate paper as presented by a London Borough Council. I have three before me, one from a small Borough in a well-to-do district, and two from East-end Boroughs. These demands are made on the estimates for sums needed in advance of the date of the demand note; on the back of the paper, the details of the coming expenses are given under two separate headings—Expenses for the period ending, &c., over which the Borough Council has no control; Expenses of the Borough Council for the period ending, &c.

Now, it is in studying the first items that one realises that our Local Borough Council acts as a collector for the larger Local Government Bodies which govern London, and it is the foundation of these rates or claims which I wish briefly to describe. The headings are:—

- General County purposes, other than Education.
- Special County purposes, not within the City of London.
- Education. Elementary, Higher.

Contribution to the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police. Relief of the Poor and other expenses of the Guardians, &c., &c.

Metropolitan Water Board.

It would be imprudent, in so short an article, to give an elaborate account of the early rates. The levying of rates, either in money or services, is almost as early as the institution of Civil Government; nevertheless, many of the most expensive institutions now maintained by local rates had no existence in the Middle Ages, and even the roads and bridges were repaired and maintained by private charity and philanthropic fraternities. In 1555 an Act was passed, by which a notice, given out in Church on the Sunday after Easter, called together certain "parochians" to "amend the ways," and the method was simply that they should assemble with their own tools, carts, and horses, or oxen, to labour for a specified time on the roads, "two honest persons" being elected as surveyors and supervisors. Bridges, being much more expensive, were generally maintained by obligations of a feudal character. It is doubt-

ful if any important cases of local rates existed earlier than the thirteenth century, though there were plenty of cases then, mostly dealing with the draining of marshes, repairing of sea walls, and the clearing of waterways. In 1256 the County of Chester was rated for the repair of Chester Bridge, "because the King had found from the book of the Exchequer, called Domesday, that the men of the County were bound to repair the bridge." In the town of Ipswich there are very full records of rates levied from 1452 to 1488, for purposes such as "suits" with other towns and the Prior of Ely, repair of the common quay, and the entertainment of the King.

The first step towards a "poor rate" was in 1388, when an Act was passed compelling impotent beggars to remain in, or return to, the towns wherein they were born; later Acts altered this to the place where such beggars had resided three years, and granted licenses for begging, and, finally, in 1535, an Act to collect relief for the poor, and to put to work the "valiant vagabonds," but the money was largely obtained by moral persuasion, wielded by the Bishop, who, in the case of an unwilling or obstinate contributor could resort to compulsion and imprisonment. The Act of 1572 made a clean sweep of these methods, and assessment on ability to pay was arranged, and by degrees the idea of "alms" was lost sight of in various compulsory acts. In 1601, an Act was passed in which there were two main provisions, first as to equality, and then as to estates. Equality, that men be rated equally, and in an equal proportion. Estates, that men be rated according to their estates, farms, or annual value of lands, &c., and in this Act a man's expenses were taken into account. This led to much variety of treatment and litigation and great controversy over the rating of traders' stocks; various amending Acts were passed up to 1840, when a temporary Act was passed and has been renewed every year since.

The Sewers rates, which came into existence before the Commonwealth, have always had a separate existence, and can be traced back to the old law affecting low-lying lands and marshes. The Highway rate begins during the period of the Commonwealth; many of the roads were maintained by Turnpike Trusts, these gradually expired in 1864.

Education as a responsibility and duty was not undertaken publicly till 1870, though Parliamentary grants to aid voluntary effort began in 1833. It is a curious fact that the Education rate in the nineteenth century rose in the same way as the Poor rate of the sixteenth century. In both instances the work and the need for it had been seen and provided for, by voluntary effort, the growth and obvious necessity gradually passing from voluntary to State and compulsory action.

The Police rate is comparatively recent—1856—and the Metropolitan Water Board was founded as recently as 1902; before that, the water supply of London was in the hands of private companies, though many other towns had provided themselves with a municipal water supply. I think this very cursory view may explain the growth of the first set of rates on our rate paper; the second set of rates is so obviously local that hardly any remarks are necessary. There is one point which can, however, be made clearer, and that is that in the County rates are included the expenses of all the main sewers, drains, roads and bridges, the Fire Brigade, and all the parks which are not under the special care of Parliament, the provision of education and of housing.

In the local rate will be seen "in respect of streets otherwise than above," which means that each Borough looks after all its own roads, streets, and drains, which are not "main" roads or drains. A good deal of information can be obtained by scrutinising the rate papers of different Boroughs, and one is struck by the fact that the arrangement is by no means uniform. I must ask my readers not to be too critical, as these notes are merely the outcome of a little reading. This has, however, convinced me that the study of rates is by no means dull, but is certainly complicated. The book which has interested and helped me is *The History of Local Rates in England*, by Edward Cannan; anyone who glances through it will feel how much more there is to know than I have given in this brief account.

The Work of the Women Police.

By M. DAMER DAWSON, O.B.E.
(Commandant of the Women's Police Service.)

After passing through five years of the experimental stage, the work of the Women Police in the United Kingdom may be described as having paved the way for, and proved the value of a permanent service. There is at present no standardisation of work, pay, or official status. In some towns Chief Constables

have a very clear idea of the uses to which a policewoman may be put. These Chief Constables are finding the services of their women officers of such value that they frankly admit that they do not know how they were able to do without them. Other Chief Constables are willing enough to extend the circle of activity for their women constables, but are baulked by the prejudices of either their Chief Superintendent or Chief Inspector, who resolutely declines to have anything to do with them, and will therefore, provide them with no work. In some towns, owing to the corruption existing in municipal government, the policewomen have been found to know too much and to find out too much, and have, therefore, been dispensed with. There are yet other police authorities who insist that policewomen can only be used as clerical assistants, for the routine work of the office, the filing of reports, typing, &c.

In the metropolitan area the official policewoman does not yet exist. Partly as a result of the strong representations made to them by various social and religious organisations and of the pressure of influential persons, the Home Office and the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police consented to try the experiment of an official force of uniformed women. They were asked to institute policewomen on the lines of those who had already performed trustworthy and meritorious service in various metropolitan boroughs for the Women Police Service during the last four years. This has not been done, but in its place a force of uniformed Women Patrols has been raised. They have neither powers nor status. They may be seen loitering about in unfrequented places in Hyde Park, or, looking hopelessly bored, leaning against the offices of the *Morning Post* in the Strand, but of the busy and responsible life of the real policewoman in a provincial city or borough they know nothing. They call a policeman on the least possible provocation, and are really mere figureheads to be used for the patch-work of "running-in" girls through a male proxy. Until they are given a responsible organisation and placed upon a standardised basis of work, discipline, &c., and until they are officered by women, who are responsible directly and solely to the heads of the departments in the Police Force, the uniformed dummy known as a police patrol will, in my opinion, seriously hinder and damage the progress and institution of a Women Police Force in this country. They are taking the line of least resistance. They hope to clear the streets by packing the prisons with girls arrested under the very incomplete and unsatisfactory law affecting prostitutes and street walkers, whereas the real work which is to be done among women and children, and the assistance which is so valuable to magistrates in the conducting of intricate and delicate investigations among women and children are, as yet, left untouched in the city which, above all others, most needs the activity of policewomen.

It is contended by the Home Office authorities, and more especially by the Inspector of Constabulary, that women should not be allowed to take the oath which clothes them with the common law and statutory powers of police constables. In his report for 1917 the Inspector of Constabulary writes that in some places women have made the declaration of a constable before the Justices, and he declines to discuss the legal effect of their so doing. He continues: "It is, I hope, not suggested that women can be, and should be, employed on those essential police duties for which these powers are primarily required—the suppression of public disorder and the arrest of dangerous or violent criminals."

"It has also been suggested that it is right that the woman doing police work should have the protection of the penalties assignable to an assault upon a constable; but she already has this, because an assault upon a woman is, like that upon a constable, an aggravated assault, and punishable, at all events on first conviction, by identical penalties."

Sir Leonard Dunning sums up the position with the following paragraph:—

"On the whole it does not seem that the question is so urgent as to call for legislation at a time when controversial matters may well be postponed."

And yet it would seem that the time is fast approaching when the whole question of women police must be thrashed out by those who are determined to retain their services, and by the authorities which alone have the standardisation of their status in their hands. I look over the interesting accounts by Chief Constables of the work of policewomen who are employed officially in the provinces, and give the following list of work which is being done by women who have been "Sworn-in":—

(a) *A Midland Town*.—Policewomen are given districts—North, South, East and West—and after attending the Police Court and taking charge of cases entrusted to them they undertake investigations in their various districts, and during the day

patrol these different districts in couples for observation or investigation; patrol public recreation grounds, parks and places of amusement, such as cinemas and dancing halls, &c. They have an office of their own, in which women who go to make enquiries are given advice and assistance. They search all women prisoners; see all women prisoners before their cases come before the court; escort all women prisoners to prison and to different parts of the country. They take them to homes; they make arrangements for getting them into suitable homes; they take charge of all child prisoners and witnesses; they sit beside the children in court; they take the children's evidence. They only are allowed to visit women's cells at the police station and have charge of the keys. They keep in touch with the different associations for the care of women and children.

(b) *A Northern Town.*—The policewomen are under a woman Inspector, who receives instructions from the Chief Superintendent of Police. They undertake all the duties enumerated above, and in addition, owing to the circumstances of the city, they are employed at the station by the railway authorities for the supervision of the crowded factory trains, and are found very effective in dealing with the rowdy element needing tact and discretion. They also assist the male police in stopping people riding bicycles, or driving in cars, without lights, taking the names and addresses that summonses may be issued. In this town a professional citizen records the following incident. He was out one evening and was attracted by a crowd who were watching two women fighting. A policeman was trying, without success, to separate them. Someone from the crowd announced that the "police ladies" were coming. Immediately the fighters desisted and disappeared.

(c) *In the West.* I am told of a policewoman employed in street patrol work who was instructed to arrest a certain woman on sight. This was done, and it being necessary to transfer the prisoner to another town, the policewoman accompanied her in plain clothes. She put the woman on her honour that she would behave herself. She took her by train, and it was necessary for them to wait in a crowded queue. The prisoner rendered assistance to the policewoman in the crowd and took no advantage of the situation. On arriving at the police station, the wardress was scarcely able to believe that the prisoner had been conveyed in this manner. The policewoman told her that the prisoner would be of great assistance to her, and this afterwards proved to be the case. This was a woman who had given much trouble previously and had been convicted many times.

(d) *In another Northern town* there is much police court work among women and children, and the Chief Constable hands over to the policewomen the entire organisation and management of the investigations of the women prisoners. They have also a large district outside the town to patrol. There has been so much work for the trained policewomen to do that they have taken on a fifth voluntary worker whom they are training to assist them.

(e) In an important seaside town, which has been visited by over a million people this last summer, I am told that the Chief Constable would rather part with two of his policemen than lose his principal woman officer, should he be requested to decrease his force. She takes entire charge of the cases of women and children; interviews all women and girls before their cases come up in Court; has conducted investigations into cases of bigamy, and mentions as an instance of her work the arrest of two children, aged about twelve years, whom she frequently noticed in the streets. She observed that they spent much money on sweets and joy-rides. She found out their parents and the circumstances of their home life, and eventually discovered that the children were keeping house in an empty cellar, and obtained their finances from pilfering a till. The home surroundings were found to be very pitiful and sordid, and one of the children had run away in order to avoid the cruelty of a parent. The boy has been placed in a home, and the girl under the supervision of the policewoman.

There has been some criticism of the work of semi-official policewomen, but it must be pointed out that the duties which have already been described, which now form part of the responsible work of duly-qualified policewomen, have been largely the result of the tentative efforts of policewomen maintained through a fund provided by a local lay organisation. It was a ladies' committee, formed in Grantham by Lady Throld, its chairman, which first raised the funds for the maintenance of two policewomen to work in the town for a six months' trial. They assisted the Chief Constable and the Provost Marshal through the first months of the war with the overwhelming social problems which every town and camp area presented. Their good services caused the Watch Committee to appoint two permanent policewomen, paid by the rates, and given full powers of arrest

in 1915. Hull and Reading followed suit without the preliminary efforts of a lay committee. In the greater number of cases, however, the introduction of policewomen has been the result of lay effort and organisation, and, not least important, financing. The Y.M.C.A., the local Clergy, the Church Army, Salvation Army, British Temperance Association, &c., &c., have all seen the need for policewomen, and have pioneered their advent. The individual Chief Constables and male police have, in the main, been most willing and friendly in co-operating. It is, however, contended that without the co-operation of the three agents, viz., the Women Police Service, which trained and supplied in the first instance, the local organisations interested in social reform which financed them, and the existing police forces, which accepted their services and rendered them all the needed assistance of a ripe experience, the movement would not have spread so rapidly nor so successfully.

When, in 1914, I sought and obtained permission to form a corps of uniformed policewomen, and to work them in the Metropolitan area as unofficial auxiliaries, Sir Edward Henry, the Commissioner, pointed out that it was useless to ask for a legal status for policewomen until they had proved themselves useful and necessary. I saw the logic of his argument, but I knew also that we must not expect officials to give us the first opportunity to create a sphere of activity. Nor was it right that they should. The police are essentially the servants of the community. If the community needs a new form of police, they should demand their services and make way for their introduction. This especially applies to the women of the community so lately enfranchised and endowed with municipal responsibility. Women police exist primarily for the benefit of the women and children of the community. I have always urged, when speaking in public on this subject, that the women should demand of their authorities and officials the employment of trained policewomen, and should make it one of their municipal duties to see that the right kind of women are employed for the right kind of work.

The right kind of status will follow, by degrees, but I would urge patience, and the withholding of that kind of confusing half-friendliness which is more obstructive than the whole-hearted hostility. More than one magistrate has been unjust to policewomen, more than one newspaper has inaccurately reported cases in which they have been concerned. The fact remains that policewomen, not as welfare workers but as police, do exist; that the demand for their services increases rapidly; that Chief Constables are increasing both their powers and their work as they learn to trust their efficiency and capacity, and that the male police are accepting them as colleagues, and have in more than one town themselves put forward a request that, as colleagues, they shall receive equal benefits. When the time is ripe the lay organisations and the Women Police Service will no longer need to work to make known an institution which has established its claim to be an integral part of public service. What is now needed is a demand from women and their organisations for a State School for training policewomen and for increased facilities for the employment of qualified policewomen in all big towns and cities. Women must see to it that decreased salaries do not lower the standard of the women employed. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and only the very best labourers are capable of women police work.

Borough Councils and Children.

BY THE LADY MABEL SMITH.

Should children be represented on Borough Councils? Do we need a "children's party"? The approach of Borough Council elections reminds us of the grave responsibility that rests with those of us who have votes, to be sure and exercise them wisely so as to secure "fit and proper persons" to serve on these Public Bodies. To do this we need some knowledge of the work which will be entrusted to them. We should realise in whose interests the domestic legislation is framed, which the Local Public Bodies are called upon to administer. We should carefully consider what qualifications it is necessary for our representatives to possess.

By far the most important work of Public Bodies is the administration of the various Acts relating to Public Health and Education. In whose interests were the Bills embodied in these Acts passed, and for whose benefit are they being administered?

The whole object of domestic legislation is the provision of happy healthy homes. These homes are necessary in the interests of the children. Family ties, and the responsibilities and obligations which to start with are voluntarily undertaken, are later on enforced in the interests of the children, because

family life is the best way of bringing up children that our civilisation has so far been able to devise.

Family life is the first form of government. Parish government is extended family government and has the same objects in view, though it legislates for many families instead of merely for one. The qualities that are necessary to secure good government in the one case, are the same as are required in the other. This also applies to District, Urban, and Borough Councils, except that the activities of these bodies are considerably enlarged. Most of us will never see the result of much of the legislation we enact and administer, but the children of to-day will reap the benefit of what we sow, or will suffer through the maladministration of the wisest laws.

There is no object in being a rich nation unless we are a happy one. We cannot be a happy one, unless we are a healthy one. Where are we to look for those with real practical knowledge of the conditions necessary to secure happy homes and healthy people? Where are we to find those who have the most sympathetic insight into the child-mind? Who are best fitted to represent the children? Surely the women who live in the homes. The women from whom the children receive their first educational impressions. The women with first hand knowledge of the child and its needs. If women are suitable to be entrusted with the care and nurture of infants, and the performance of all vital services to the child during the first years of its life, surely they are capable of helping to make and administer the laws that are framed for its future welfare and guidance.

The mention of only a few of the duties and activities of a Borough Council will show how important it is that woman should share with men the work of administering these laws. The Public Health Act of 1848, and succeeding Acts; Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890-1903, &c.; the Midwives Act, 1902; Notification of Births Act, 1907-1915; Milk and Dairies Act, 1914; Physically and Mentally Defective Children, 1899; Provision of Meals, 1914 and 1916; Choice of Employments, 1910; Education Act of 1918, with its provision for "Nursery Schools."

It is obvious that women's advice and experience is necessary if these Acts are to be effectively administered. A familiar criticism of women is that they are chiefly concerned with detail and fail to grasp larger issues. Even if this is really so, is it not a fact that accuracy of detail is very necessary in public work? Good laws fail to be effective through lack of attention to administrative detail. Women are certainly very devoted to duty and can be relied upon to attend committee meetings at which the real work of the Council is done.

Mr. Benjamin Kidd points out in *The Power of Science*, that men seek to acquire and possess, women to create and construct. While the tendency of the male mind is to legislate for the present and the individual, woman's instinct is to legislate for the future and the family. She is also prepared to make considerable sacrifices to realise her ideals. Though qualities of heart and brain may differ in men and women, they are complementary to one another, and government by one sex alone is bound to be incomplete. We need as members of our public bodies men and women of high character. Men and women of wide outlook who will not be afraid to venture along unknown paths. Men and women who can hear the call of the children, who can feel the pull of the small hands leading upward, who can hear the patter of the small feet marching forward. We need a "Children's Party," loyal, disinterested, and true. We need full and free recognition of the claims of childhood to representation on our Public Bodies. We need the votes of the "mothers of the race" to send on to our Borough Councils those who have the best right to represent the children.

The Road to Shahpur.

Innocent Reader, you have no conception of the dark secrets of a publishing office, even of a highly respectable publishing office such as that of THE COMMON CAUSE. If you bestow a thought upon the difficulties of bringing out a weekly paper, it is probably a thought of pity for the trials and sorrows of the Editor. You never think of the wretched contributor. For once the curtain shall be drawn aside, and you will know the horrid truth.

Editorial Dept. (on the telephone). . . . Yes, if you could. . . . What sort of an article? Well something, of course, touching the interests of women. . . . For instance, the political situation regarding . . .

Contributor (weakly). Well, if there's time, perhaps . . . E.D. (hastily, as if every Contributor had all the time there is). Thank you.

The Contributor is left thinking gloomily of the desperate

situation of several political problems affecting women. A few days later the telephone rings again.

E.D. (sternly). What about that article?

Contributor (trembling, but putting up a fight for it). Well, what about it? . . . No time. . . . Not ready. . . .

E.D. (in a breach of promise voice). But you promised . . . Relying on you . . . something humorous . . . light relief necessary. . . .

Contributor (bitterly sarcastic). Indeed! I presume you mean something combining a serious suggestion and the "George Robey touch."

E.D. (with brazen sweetness). Exactly.

And the receiver is promptly hung up.

Enough of this barbarous, business-like West. Look Eastward with me for a moment to a little corner of the Punjab, on the eve of the Armistice. My companion and I longed to stay in the plains and hear what had happened in Europe; but we were pledged to remote Shahpur, and for two reasons. First, to carry to that far-off village as much influenza mixture and quinine as we could; secondly, to buy dusters and blankets cheap, since, as my companion said with a strange twinkle, "They won't, perhaps, have heard of the war." After a two hours' journey to the terminus of a branch railway we set off, at the height of a sunny afternoon, in a little *tonga*. Servants and baggage had been sent by another road. We proposed to go by the short cut, which was reported passably good, since Rs. 3,000 had just been spent on smoothing the ultra-lumpy places. Our surly *tonga-wallah* grunted, "Yes. I know the short road," and off we went. Three miles out we left the *tonga* somewhat precipitately, saying: "Where is that Rs. 3,000? Not, oh not on this road." Huge mounds of rubble, enormous boulders, deep ruts, dangerous holes, riverbeds; over and through this our wretched little pony had to drag the *tonga*. Our scowling driver again grunted, "This is the road," and not another word could we get from him. On we scrambled for miles, till just as twilight fell a patriarchal Punjabi—looking as if he had come straight out of the Bible—rode up. Greetings were exchanged, and then my companion said: "Tell me, Sirdar-ji, are we far now from Shahpur?"

"Shahpur, memsahib?" he cried, in horror. "You are not on the road to Shahpur. You must now pass by Madhipur to reach Shahpur: nor can I guide you, for I must cross these fields."

This was serious. Night was upon us, and there were many miles to go; and it was now obvious that our *tonga-wallah* was either mad, or opium drunk, or both. My companion never turned a hair, though several of mine turned considerably. The obvious thing was to press on, and on we went. Over miles of that staggering road we trudged; sometimes in utter darkness beneath heavy trees, sometimes in pale moonlight; sometimes far ahead of our *tonga* and its driver, who was now indulging in blood-curdling groans; sometimes behind the *tonga*, our shoulders against the tail-board when the unhappy pony had to negotiate a bad place. At last came Madhipur, and there by chance we pulled up at the only inhabited bungalow where a much astonished Canal Engineer gave us shelter and rest for an hour, and cheered us with the information that the road ahead was rather better.

Towards midnight we reached our resting-place, a little bungalow built into the cliffs overhanging the Ravi River. It was a scene of exquisite beauty, for the moon rode high and clear; but we had no eyes for beauty then. Our ears were too painfully exercised by the shrieks of our *tonga-wallah*, who seemed to be possessed.

"Unharness that pony," commanded my companion. The only result was a succession of shrieks. "Hai! hai!" he wailed. "Hai! hai! I am dying, I am dying." And while our own servants did his work for him he continued to die with extraordinary vocal power. But my companion was determined that he should at least rub down the pony.

"*Ghore ko saf karo*," she cried, sternly. Nothing but further shrieks resulted—and, indeed, by now all the servants were wailing and positively terrified. Then I witnessed an extraordinary spectacle. My lady is certainly an Amazon in spirit—but she is slight of body. Yet she took that madman firmly by the arms and propelled him equally firmly towards the pony.

"*Ghore ko saf karo*," she said grimly.

"*Ghore ko saf karo. Ghore ko . . .*" And with each rhythmic sentence she rubbed the pony down with the shrieking man; and then set him firmly on one side.

One last shriek rent the air. "I am dead," he cried.

"That's a good thing," she replied, pleasantly. "Now that you're nicely and comfortably dead, you'd better take that pony to the stable."

LETTERS FROM A TOWN TO A COUNTRY WOMAN.

Saturday, October 25th.

Every day sees more and more people returning to Town. Already hotels are full to overcrowding, and furnished houses are at a premium. By the time Parliament meets next week one wonders where all those who will then come flocking back to Town will find accommodation.

Meanwhile women who are already in Town are busy with their Winter shopping, the sudden snap of cold weather having made furs and heavy wraps a necessity.

Without doubt moleskin is the fashionable fur for Winter wear this season, and everyone is talking about some beautiful moleskin cape-cloaks that are to be seen in Swan & Edgar's showrooms at Piccadilly Circus. Beautifully worked in well-defined patterned squares and stripes after the prevailing fashion, these models are being bought by all the best dressed women, who find they are the very thing for present-day wear, being light to walk in, comfortable and cosy, and eminently becoming to wear.

Those who cannot afford real moleskins content themselves with mole-dyed coney, that beautiful soft grey fur that has taken Paris by storm, and is enjoying an universal craze this Winter. Coats of this pelt, besides possessing the merit of being very smart, are quite inexpensive, for I saw a lovely little three-quarter coat made with a big shawl collar and the fashionable sleeves marked at 25½ guineas the other day—a little less than half what a real moleskin cloak would cost.

Another vogue that has come to stay is that of wearing boots that certainly look infinitely smarter and more seasonable for street wear than low cut shoes and light silk stockings, of which the best dressed women have grown a little weary, and which many doctors contend were responsible for half the chills and influenza so prevalent last year.

But to be correct, it is imperative that you wear the correct type of boot upon which fashion has set its seal of approval. These are made of a new stamped grey leather, not unlike crocodile, but more durable. Boots of this kind must be laced, not buttoned, and be high enough in the leg to meet the short walking skirts of to-day. It is impossible to describe the stylish effect of the new footwear, especially when worn with a blue serge coat frock or one of the new striped street suits.

To complete one's costume a softly draped velvet hat seems to be a necessary adjunct. For the most part these match the colour of the wearer's toilette, and most favoured models take the form of new and fascinating toque tam o' shanters made of velvet, showing pretty irregular brims, into the soft folds of which are cunningly inserted little wisps of paradise or osprey, which produce a bewilderingly becoming effect.

These hats are particularly "easy" to wear, and have a softening effect that is very "kind" to women of all ages. Little or no hair is shown under their tight-fitting brims, save just round the ears and at the nape of the neck, and while dressy enough to do duty on all occasions, these models have nothing to get disarranged in the wind, and impart a great distinction to the costumes with which they are worn. Being London's latest novelty I had no difficulty in finding where they came from, and I soon discovered the original model at Swan & Edgar's, where for 49s. 6d. I bought and wore away a delightful mole-coloured velvet model with sprays of osprey, which looks delightful with my new moleskin cape.

With it I purchased one of the new long lacy floating veils, which, made in black, in mole, brown, grey, deep reds, and rich blues, are the latest Parisian novelty, and add to the charm of all the new hats. Measuring from 2½ to 3½ yards in length, these are simply thrown over any hat, imparting an exceedingly graceful and stylish effect.

On my way out I passed through the needlework section. Here I came across the most delightful little hand-embroidery machine I have ever seen. Costing only 30s., this takes the form of a small nickel-plated shuttle which, easily worked by the veriest novice, executes the most lovely raised embroidery in an amazingly short time.

Hand-embroidered initials on lingerie or household linen can be worked in fine or coarse silk or cotton in a few minutes with no fear of eye-strain or mistakes, while cushion covers, table centres, etc., on satin can be worked in various colours which can be blended as with a needle.

Crêpe de Chine or woollen fabrics such as serge and cloth can be embroidered with this clever contrivance, which requires no time to learn, and should prove the greatest boon not only to amateur needlewomen, but also to those who wish to add to their incomes by taking advantage of the craze for hand embroidery that has spread throughout the dress-making world of to-day.

Everything mentioned in the above article can be bought at Swan & Edgar's. All questions concerning dress of to-day, as well as shopping commissions for country readers, will be dealt with by Miss Mary Marsh, c/o Swan & Edgar, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

He was certainly more satisfactory "dead" than living, for he obeyed without a word; and gave us no further trouble.

So at one o'clock in the morning we dined; then slept like dormice, to the murmur of the Ravi far below us, and confused dreams of dying *tonga-wallahs* and cheap dusters.

A glorious morning broke on a glorious view. Eight hundred feet below us flowed the river, blue mile after blue mile of it, and far away shone the eternal snows. There was another cause for joy. The kindly Canal Engineer had sent a special runner with a sealed message. He had heard by the private canal wire that the Armistice was signed. So we walked up the hill to Shahpur village, laden but rejoicing.

Shahpur is one of the lovely unknown wonders of the world—a mediæval dream village, with its sloping street paved with little circular cobbles, its one huge *pippala* tree sheltering an old stone trough and image, and its straight squat houses with carved shutters.

We found food for smiles and tears that morning in the lovely sunlit street.

"Now what is the price of this duster cloth?" asked my companion of a stately merchant.

"Let's hope they haven't heard of the war," she said; and I was foolish enough to take her half-seriously. The man's answer was illuminating, "Yesterday, Presence, it was ten annas," he said, quietly. "But to-day it is only eight. The war is over."

It was astounding. So they knew the Armistice was signed. We had known it but a few minutes, from a sealed message which had come over a private wire many miles away. They always know things in India; and sometimes no one knows how they know. That is one of India's little mysteries.

Suddenly a hush fell on the bazaar, a moment of intense stillness. Down the sunlit street came a little procession. It was a burying. First, the shrouded body borne by men, then following came the shrouded figures of living women; hands clasped, heads bent, two by two they drifted past. Not a sound broke that intense stillness, not a word was spoken; those poor bare feet made no noise as they trod the stones. A moment, and it was over, and the sun had its way with the street again. But that funeral was an unforgettable thing, classic in its dignity and simplicity, its power to "purge the heart by terror and pity."

For the rest of that morning the villagers were gathered round my companion as she spoke to them in Punjabi—doling out influenza medicine the while—advising them how to fight the scourge, scolding them for carelessness, cheering them with her ready wit. In her own district she had, with the splendid Sikh doctor, organised the relief work during the influenza epidemic there, and dragged dying people from the roadside and nursed them till she fell ill herself. Organised Government help was sent to the district a fortnight after the epidemic was over! Perhaps, by now, who knows, it may have reached Shahpur?

Now comes the moral to this little jungle tale. To-day in India we are trying to govern and educate nearly three hundred million souls. We are trying to do our best, but we shall never attain that best until women are associated with men in the Government of India. India will never take her rightful place among the nations until the women of India take their rightful place beside men in the national life. Progress may be slow in that respect, but it is all the slower under a Government composed entirely of men. It is interesting to note that in spite of the fact that most men in conversation agree with us in saying that Indian women must be freed and educated, Lord Southborough's Committee proposes a new political *pardah*!

A benign but unpractical Education Department in India still upholds a system which allows little Indian children to memorise passages from Spenser's "Faery Queen," when they should be reading poems in the vernacular, teaching them to blow their little noses neatly, and be kind to animals. In a score of ways women such as my companion of Shahpur, women of high physical courage, intimate knowledge of the language and life of the people, and of marked administrative ability, would be invaluable in Government service. This would seem almost blasphemy to the average Anglo-Indian. But I have already heard the idea of women entering the Indian Civil Service seriously discussed in unlikely quarters. Yet it seems to me that few British women have ever considered India as a possible field of service.

If these lines serve to arouse any enquiry on this subject; if the road to Shahpur has been lighter to the eye than it was to our feet; above all, if the Editorial Department be appeased, it will be some compensation to the

UNFORTUNATE CONTRIBUTOR.

The Disconcerter.

Heartbreak House. By Bernard Shaw. (Constable. 7s. 6d.)

"Heartbreak House" seems to be the twenty-sixth volume of Mr. Bernard Shaw's collected works, and perhaps his twenty-sixth play. The exact count depends upon such considerations as whether a pamphlet is a volume, and whether "Man and Superman" is one play or two, a matter as to which Mr. Shaw and his publishers seem in doubt. At any rate the latest volume containing "Heartbreak House," "O'Flaherty, V.C.: A Recruiting Pamphlet," and other stage pieces which Mr. Shaw variously describes as "a True-to-Life Farce, A Revolutionary Romancelet, An Almost Historical Comedietta, and a barely passable dramatic pretext," brings the philosopher-dramatist's output of plays to thirty or over. Mr. Shaw has been publishing for nearly forty years; the length of time during which he has "flourished" and the shelf-room occupied by his essays in romantic and dramatic fiction seem to demand that he shall be treated as a classic. It should be possible from a careful study of the prefaces to divide the dramatic works into plays pleasant and unpleasant, avoiding in deference to their author the conventional labels of "tragedy" or "comedy," and to point out transitions from an earlier to a later and possibly a final manner, and, dishing up the whole with a brief sketch of the author's development and place in English literature, to leave him labelled and *rangé* like any Victorian.

Mr. Shaw must have seen this danger in the offing. If the possibility had become actual he would have been obliged to explain that he did not develop, that there is no English Literature, that he acknowledges no debt to any Irish artist in prose or verse, that he wrote unpleasant plays because they pleased him, and pleasant ones in the hope of displeasing his critics, and that where he seems to be pointless it is not, as in the case of a classic, because he is speaking in parables, but because he is intent upon disconcerting his audience. He does not wish to purge by means of pity and terror, or discomfit hypocrisy with hearty laughter; he wants to leave his audience "struck all of a heap," as the vulgar have it. But in the years from 1913-16 when these plays were written, Mr. Shaw had many rivals in the art of surprising his hearers and disappointing expectations. In the earlier years of the century life in Great Britain was so orderly that Mr. Shaw's explosions of paradox, his minatory prefaces, his swear-words, his husband-hunting heroines, his dialogues with heavenly and hellish powers, made their desired effect. In a country deafened with the reverberations of a war in three or four continents, they hardly travelled across the footlights, and now that the cosmic tumult has subsided we find our Mr. Shaw, though he has made more than his normal effort to astonish, striking us almost as a skilful artisan in repetition work. Are the times too much out of joint for the appreciation of Art, is it possible in twenty-six volumes to have too much of a good thing, or did we, during all the years that we clamped for Mr. Shaw to be Shakespeare and Savonarola to us, exalt the goddess of the unexpected to an empire to which she had no claim? Or is it merely that in "Heartbreak House" Mr. Shaw is laughing at things we can no longer endure to make merry over?

To take the five short plays first. "Great Catherine" is Catherine of Russia, and the play is a knock-about farce, with Patomkin drunk, Catherine yawning in a four-post bed at the assembled Court, and a conceited young Englishman lecturing the Empress for her unladylike behaviour in falling in love with him. Mr. Shaw's preface states that he is not interested in Catherine's campaigns, conquests, and reforms, but that he foresaw a certain piquancy in making her behave like a fish-fag if the character were played by an actress with a dignified presence. In 1913, when the play was written, Russia was not enduring martyrdom, and for those who can laugh at "drunks" and enjoy bedroom scenes, the little farce may have been entertaining. The joke of "O'Flaherty, V.C." is that of a man returning thankfully to the trenches to escape the tyranny and greed of his mother and his sweetheart. Mr. Shaw will, no doubt, think it narrow and ill-bred of the friends and relatives of soldiers if neither in 1915 when it was written, nor at this present date do they find the idea funny. That soldiers themselves make such jokes and laugh at them is not to the purpose; there is a difference between smiling on the scaffold and being smiled at. "Augustus Does His Bit" has for its joke the absurdities of an aristocratic major who has been released from imprisonment in Germany because his stupidity makes him more dangerous to his friends than his enemies. Here, again, the fact that the association of ideas is a law of psychology and not a British foible makes the probability of any returned prisoner enjoying the joke a remote one. The comicality of "Anna-

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janska," where a Russian Royal lady becomes a Bolshevik Empress, requires also somewhat too detached an attitude to make it a really popular curtain-raiser. We agree with Mr. Shaw that the fun he pokes at the Kaiser under the name of the "Inca of Perusalem" is not likely to wound a defeated enemy, but the attitude of the monarch to his own merits is so much like that of the Bernard Shaw of the prefaces to the Bernard Shaw of the plays that it lacks the stimulus of novelty. There remains the long title-play, with its formidable preface in thirty-three sections, the *pièce de resistance* of the book, and the only item for which the author has no comment which amounts to an excuse or apology. It is also the only play of Mr. Shaw's which is up to the present unacted. Will this re-instate the dramatist in the place he held when "Candida," "John Bull's Other Island," and "The Doctor's Dilemma" made him the idol of the British *intelligentsia* and almost a popular favourite in London, Berlin, and the high-brow circles of America?

The initial difficulty in considering this work is that though the preface states that "Heartbreak House is not merely the name of this play . . . it is cultured, leisured Europe before the war," the drama itself bears little trace of any symbolic significance. If it fails as a play, it does not make amends by being a parable. If Mr. Shaw means by his very striking title only that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," it is not very appropriate that the worst mischief should be done by the heroine, Ellie, who is described as "evidently not a smart idler," and the owner of the house, Captain Shotover, who, though in his second childhood, ceaselessly occupies himself in pantry work and drawing. But he must mean more, Mr. Shaw argues (in the thirty-ninth page of a preface dealing with Shakespeare and every other known subject except musical glasses) that "Heartbreak House" could not have been published before the end of the war—"Comedy, though sorely tempted, had to be loyally silent." Or rather, Comedy, which in 1915 could jeer at a V.C., could not stage a play in which the villain perished in an air-raid. Since, then, the connection between the play and the war is as vague as that between the play and the preface, let us fix our eyes on the stage and try to forget that the play's author thinks that Englishmen denounced the sinking of the "Lusitania" because some of the victims were first-class passengers.

The setting of the piece is as attractive as its name. A room built like the poop of a ship, with a row of windows looking into a garden; Ellie, the invited guest of old Captain Shotover's married daughter is waiting for a welcome from her hostess, whose visit of inspection to the guest room had culminated in a long sleep. Hesione Hushabye, the hostess, is intent on saving Ellie from a loveless marriage with a man who has rescued the girl's father from financial ruin. The father, the would-be husband, Hesione's sister from the Antipodes and her husband, and finally, Hesione's husband, arrive, most of them unexpectedly, and all unannounced, in rapid succession. Hesione is gently amused at the discovery that her husband has posed as an unmarried man, and that Ellie has fallen in love with him. Ellie is heartbroken, and says so, but she does not weep or upbraid Hector or plan any revenge. She reflects that it is better to be rich than poor, even if one's heart is broken, and announces her consent to marriage with the benefactor. But this gentleman has in the meantime fallen in love with Hesione, and declines the honour, remarking that far from being a benefactor, he had ruined and exploited Mazzini Dunn. Ellie, to his surprise, considers this no bar to marrying him; once heartbroken, she becomes the typical predatory female, and only abandons her pursuit of her retreating ex-suitor when she perceives the greater advantage of marrying the ancient Captain Shotover, who, on his own showing, is a confirmed drunkard and has a black wife in the West Indies. Out of deference to the unities, these developments all take place between afternoon tea and some time, rather long, after dinner, when the benefactor and a burglar, who has stolen a diamond necklace, are killed by a bomb as they are sheltering in a gravel pit where Captain Shotover keeps dynamite. This incredible fable is set forth with a profusion of witty dialogue, and is enriched with subsidiary flirtations between the older women and other members of the party, marked by cheerful heartlessness on the part of the women and angry tears on the men's side. Of course, it is only Mr. Shaw's fun to pretend that all this has any likeness to England before the war, or indeed to any country at any time, but the incidents are nearly as probable as those of the ordinary *revue*, and the dialogue much more amusing. The three acts fill 108 pages of close print, and would take an unconscionable time to play. Perhaps, after all, it is meant to be read and to be studied along with the preface, and regarded as a moral lesson in Rising Superior to Affliction. In case this should be so, we quote an appropriate epigram.

"Randall has nothing to do but have his heart broken. It is a change from having its head shampooed." This is the *leit-motiv* of the play. The idle rich are even more mischievous when they interest themselves in art and literature, than when they live in "Horseback Hall" and think of nothing but the stables. This is a hard blow from Mr. Shaw, who has hitherto, and even in the preface to the present play, upbraided the leisured classes for their intellectual torpor. But no doubt it will benefit those of the culprits who happen to hear of it. Like everything Mr. Shaw does, it contains many hints for the judicious who can distinguish with some certainty those characters who are meant for awful warnings from those who are pointing out a better way.

Public Health.

An Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine. By Sir George Newman. Ministry of Health. (Stationery Office. 6d.)

Sir George Newman has a talent almost amounting to genius for the presentation of technical and statistical matter in a form not only intelligible but interesting to the lay reader. This "Memorandum addressed to the Ministry of Health," is in reality an Open Letter to the general public, who must be persuaded to co-operate in the furtherance of preventive medicine if we are to obtain the great results in lowering death-rates at all ages and diminishing the common disabling but not fatal ill-health under which so large a number of civilised peoples now labour. It is idle to attempt a *précis* of a monograph so terse, so closely reasoned, so gracefully expressed, and by its price so accessible to everyone interested. Sir George Newman does not despair of civilisation, and harp on the inevitable deterioration of urban and industrial populations. He rejoices in the fact that "Vast sections of the population live healthy and fully occupied lives," that "the majority of the children at school are, in most respects, healthy." He points out that preventive medicine has hitherto confined itself almost exclusively to sanitation and infectious disease, in which fields it has been highly successful, and he shows ground for believing that many non-infectious diseases which now account for a large part of premature mortality are also preventable now that a long period of research has thrown light on their causes. Heart disease, venereal disease, tuberculosis, digestive diseases, have in the main come under the notice of medical practitioners only at late and comparatively incurable stages. Obstetricians have been faced with grave conditions threatening maternal and infant life, which early care would have cured or minimised. It has now been shown that what were once held to be the inevitable disabilities of middle age are the results of early carelessness or overstrain. Dr. Newman shows convincingly that Infant Welfare Centres, School Medical Inspection, industrial medicine, and all the recent developments of State preventive medicine, enable the practitioner to attack evils with a certainty of success immeasurably greater than when his main experience lay among hospital and private patients in late and often incurable stages of the same illness. But legislation by itself cannot obtain the magnificent results which lie within the grasp of a whole nation intent upon stamping out physical, mental, and moral diseases, which are so intertwined that they cannot be vanquished separately. "No far-reaching medical reform is separable from social reform, which in its turn finds its source in the highest aspirations of the people."

Correspondence.

(Letters intended for publication should reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

FOUNDER OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

MADAM.—At the moment of launching the campaign in London and Provinces for a National Memorial to one of the greatest women of the war—Dr. Elsie Inglis—the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE should be informed of the purpose of the Memorial from the initiation of the campaign.

Dr. Elsie Inglis has gone, as she smilingly said on her death bed, to a "new job." The unfinished objects of her work on this side remain as a legacy to us to whom her memory is an inspiration. There are two plans especially dear to her. Her pre-war work in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Edinburgh must be put on such a basis that financial anxiety will never hamper its development or distract the workers. The "Hospice" in High Street has been unable to keep pace with the demands for accommodation within its pleasant walls. It certainly cannot in its present form provide accommodation for the women medical students who wish to do their maternity work under women doctors. To enlarge the Hospice is an urgent necessity, and its endowment is desirable. £50,000 of the Memorial Fund will go to this.

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Miss PICTON-TURBERRILL, O.B.E.,
The Rev. F. M. GREEN, B.D.

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1. The Government Bill for Women's Emancipation is not a true equality Bill. It must be amended to give full civic and political rights to women, and passed in the coming session.
2. The Government is in favour of Widow's Pensions in principle. By constant pressure we mean to make the House of Commons turn principle into practice. We demand Pensions for Widows.
3. We demand Equal pay for Equal work. And we demand an open field for women in industrial life.
4. We demand the immediate reform of the Divorce Law, the laws dealing with Solicitation and Prostitution. An equal moral standard must be established.
5. Women must speak for themselves as well as vote. We are determined that Women Candidates holding our Equality Programme shall be returned to Parliament at the next Election.

This work is vital; it is immediate. We call to the womanhood of the whole country to join us in this great campaign for equality.

We need £10,000 immediately.

We look to every reader of "THE COMMON CAUSE" to respond to this appeal. We ask our Societies to call meetings of all their members and make known the urgent necessity for active propaganda and generous donations.

To readers, to individual members, to Societies, we say
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The second half of the Fund is for a purpose equally urgent. Had Dr. Elsie Inglis not succumbed to her labours, it is likely she might have returned to Serbia to train educated women of that country to do the work that the "Scottish Women" did. There is no Training Institution for Nurses yet in Serbia. A Hospital and School for Nurses will take at least £50,000 to equip and start.

These two things are necessary at once. All is ready for them but the Funds. The Hospice is there waiting for extension; the deputation of the Memorial has left London to take final counsel with those qualified to give advice in Serbia. The young women of Serbia are ready to hear the call to take up a career of nursing. These institutions will bear her name and will be worthy evidences of her unforgettable memory.

All information will be gladly given from the Office of the National Memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, 110, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Scottish readers will be aware of the Offices of the Memorial at 8, Randolph Square, Edinburgh, and 202, Hope Street, Glasgow, for the friends of Dr. Elsie Inglis over the border have been busy since soon after her death in organising the National Memorial.

EVELYN DEAKIN, Head Organiser.
L. F. HALL, Publicity and Press Secretary.
A. E. WISHART.

EDUCATION AND BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

MADAM,—One must heartily agree with your remark in your issue of October 17th, that "every woman who has the Local Government vote ought to be thinking about the coming City and Borough Council Elections"—a remark equally applicable to County Councils and to Borough Councils outside London which have their own educational scheme.

Naturally, your reference is to the prospects of women candidates and, as you go on to say, "to their views about all the important administrative matters with which the Councils have to deal."

May I venture to suggest that in one, and that far and away the most important of these administrative matters, the question of the "views" of candidates is of less interest than that of the fitness and knowledge they can bring to bear. Far beyond the claims of other lines of municipal reform, however pressing, the interests of national education are calling for a wise and careful choice of candidates. Since those great interests were removed from the *ad hoc* elective authorities and added to the multifarious duties of over-worked County and Borough Councils, the record of every candidate has become a matter for keen inquiry. Sooner or later there is a chance that he may drift to a seat on the Education Committee with power to make or mar its efficiency, as the case may be. Most of us are familiar with the member who sits "to save the rates," and incidentally to thwart the mischievous tendency to "over-educate."

The town in which I live, a Borough which administers its own scheme independent of the County Council, and on the whole has done its work fairly well, with some successful ventures to its credit, has yet never laid any stress in Borough elections upon the fitness of candidates for the important duties of an Education Authority, and no election has ever turned upon that issue although many minor issues have been strenuously fought. When the Council makes its annual adjustment of Sub-Committees, education takes its chances with the other Borough business, roads, cab licences, finance, &c., and, as I have said, we come off pretty well.

But a great new departure is before us. National education is taking on an aspect of vital importance and pressing forward claims which involve the whole question of national efficiency.

How many of the new aspirants for County and Municipal honours have any practical acquaintance with the present conditions of elementary education, or have taken the trouble to inform themselves as to the lines upon which its immense future development will proceed as promised in the Act which went into effect last February?

I trust I shall not be misunderstood if I say that women candidates require special inquiry upon this question. I have met few who had any expert knowledge of the scheme of elementary education, many whose "views" of that great interest were based upon prejudice or misconception, or at best were limited to a narrow view. For instance, your contributor, in a notice of "Thoughts on Working Class Education" by Eden and Cedar Paul, tells us that "the entire teaching in the Schools, the Evening Classes, and throughout the whole of Secondary Education, represents the outlook of the working classes!"

Can it be possible that she has ever heard of such a thing, for example, as Nature Study, as country rambles, or even swimming lessons—not to mention a few other harmless educational diversions? In the model educational effort of the Co-operative Society she regrets the absence from the curriculum of any mention of Art or Literature. If she will visit any County High School she will find those rather important elements of education well represented in its curriculum.

I am not under-rating the value of the Co-operative effort which seems distinctly good, I am only using the article as an illustration of my contention that some accurate knowledge of the subject is needed by every woman who aspires to take a hand in its administration.

AN ENTHUSIAST FOR EDUCATION.

Reports, Notices, etc.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

In the main there was a certain breeziness about the Church Congress held last week in Leicester; an inclination was apparent to be oftener amused than angered when a speaker expressed any particularity of view too vigorously. And with all this there was a good deal of real earnestness and readiness to accept, or at the least to give a fair hearing to new ideas. The subject matter dealt with though some of it was of the backwaters, rather than of the rapid, moving stream of human needs to-day was of interest to both sexes, and three or four women had been invited to read papers, but their participation in the proceedings seemed but to emphasise the too unabashed masculinity of the traditional and still prevalent, theory of a Church Congress. The ascetic and monastic conceptions of ecclesiasticism are still in possession. Why then was a representative of THE COMMON CAUSE there? She was there not only to report, but also in a certain sense, as one who challenged the old time theory. And two events of the week, one official, one unofficial, suggest that it is the part

of the Church, as indeed several of the readers of papers suggested in various connections, to bring forth things new as well as old. These events were the official debate on the Ministry of Women opened by Canon Streeter and Miss Gregory, and the unofficial meeting organised by the League of the Church Militant, at which Miss Maude Royden addressed a large gathering of clerical and lay members of the Congress on the subject of Women and the Priesthood. The debate on the Ministry of Women was held in the smaller of the two Congress Halls, but was presided over by the Bishop of Peterborough, President of the Congress. It was crowded, and the gangways as well as the seats showed thick with clergy. Canon Streeter was greeted with very slight applause, and for some time his speech was followed in a curious, tense silence with here and there a clap or two, or an ejaculation, half suppressed, of violent dissent. Gradually the audience became *en rapport* with him and when, dealing with the objection that Rome would disapprove an extended Ministry of women, he declared that he, for his part, did not regard the Church of England as resembling a lady of doubtful virtue, who, by strict attention to etiquette, and with differential glances continually directed at the county families, hoped to win for herself a more or less secure position in county society, his hearers succumbed to merriment. But at no point did the smallest levity show itself such as was customary in the early days of the suffrage movement. Nor did any of the speakers fail in respect for the argument of tradition as one factor in the problem, though both showed that to allow tradition to bind is to make the Church the Church of a dead past, not of a living Spirit. Canon Streeter's position is, in brief, that every ineligibility of women in the Church except that of the priesthood should be wholly and immediately removed but that the priesthood should not yet be opened to them, though it should be an ideal for the future. His foregoing speech was weighty, brilliant, and amazingly witty. Friend and foe alike seemed carried away at least for the moment and it was punctuated throughout with applause and with laughter. No feminist should fail to read a full report of both speeches. Miss Gregory developed the thought that it had taken centuries for the full meaning of even two facts of the great threefold Christian charter, "Neither Jew nor Gentile, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female" to be apprehended and that the apprehension of the third was required for the Church to be wholly loyal to Christ's Gospel. A short, general discussion followed in which, among others, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, Head Deaconess Liddall, Rev. Father Magee, Mr. Hill of the English Church Union, and Miss Helen Ward, took part. The Bishop concluded by referring to the fact that he had been Chairman of the Archbishops' Committee and announcing that it was proposed to remove certain ineligibilities, but that the priesthood would not be opened to women "in the lifetime" of any present. He made a just and sympathetic Chairman of debate.

At 5.30 the same afternoon Miss Royden delivered, to the audience referred to above, a very remarkable address on Women and the Priesthood. Restraining until the close her gift of eloquence, she analysed with rapier-like keenness, and with a wealth of illustrative fact, the position of those who maintained that the present—and the traditional—position accorded to women in the Church is in accordance with the Mind of Christ, and, incidentally, she exposed the *ex parte* presentation of certain facts in the recently published Report of the Archbishops' Committee, and pointed out that this Report, admittedly refraining from recommendation to action, lost all value as a guide to action through its narrowly antiquarian rather than historical character. As in the morning, the audience again maintained a silence of electric character during the first part of the address, and thawed visibly under the influence of Miss Royden's evident mastery of her subject. By the time questions were invited, the main body of those present were in feckle to appreciate joyfully Miss Royden's replies. It is earnestly to be desired that the address may be published.

The Rev. F. Green, of the League of the Church Militant, also spoke with convincing force. This League, now happily affiliated to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, conducted a most spirited and effective campaign throughout the Congress, and made the empty house it rented for the week and where its splendid band of workers lived (on camp beds and shakedown!) a delightful centre of light and leading. On Thursday night it inspired two other Church societies to join with it in a procession through the town, with cross and banner, to Victoria Park for an open air meeting on the message of the Church to the people. The other feature in the Congress of special note to feminists was the impression created by Dr. Fairfield's paper on the medical, spiritual and moral safeguards against venereal disease, thus referred to by the *Church Times* of October 17th:—"Of all speakers at the Congress so far, Dr. Letitia Fairfield has had by far the greatest reception and has perhaps made the best speech."

Those who desire to see the fulfilment of the threefold Christian charter may well take courage from the moving of a new spirit at this Congress and go forward.

A. HELEN WARD.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

The National Federation of Women Teachers held a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on October 20th, to protest against the entire exclusion of their representatives from the Burnham Committee, which is considering the salaries of elementary school teachers at the present time. The Committee consists of forty-four members, of whom only five are women, although more than 70 per cent. of the teachers affected are women. It was pointed out that the Whitley Report specially emphasised the need of including representatives of women's organisations on all Councils of this nature. Repeated representations have been sent to Mr. Fisher, who first convened the Committee, and to the Committee themselves, but so far without avail. The Federation is the only Teacher's Organisation which is "solid" for equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status, and claims the right to voice that principle on the Committee.

At the close of the meeting a Sustentation Fund was inaugurated, and hundreds of promises and £5 notes, and £10 notes, as well as collective promises of gifts each amounting to £100 found their way up to the Chairman amid great enthusiasm. A gentleman on the platform remarked that "this is quite like suffrage times," and, indeed, intense earnestness of purpose marked the proceedings throughout.

[We hope to publish a further account of this meeting next week.—Ed. C.C.]

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Stand facing the Natives of that sorely stricken land ARMENIA.

The signing of the Peace Treaty marks a stage forward towards freedom from oppression. Meanwhile there are thousands of Armenian women and girls—weeded out from Moslem homes—who need employment and encouragement.

The industrial Branch of the Port Said Refugee Camp work has been a great blessing to the Armenian refugees who were rescued and taken there. The beautiful work made by these women who were deported from their homes, comprises Lace Edged Linen Handkerchiefs from 1/5 to 3/3 each, Cushion Covers, Afternoon Teacloths, Traycloths, hand-made Woollen Mats and Rugs from 8/6 to £3 5s. each, etc., etc.

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1

FIVE CLASSES

on

ELECTION WORK

October 31st,
November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, 1919.

Chairman: MISS HELEN WARD, N.U.S.E.C.

These Classes are intended for women who wish to take part in either Parliamentary or Local Government Elections, whether as Candidates or as Workers. It is hoped that further Classes for training Women Election Agents will arise out of this preliminary course.

October 31st. 1.—Preparation of Ground.
Opener: Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.
(a) Selection of Candidates.
(b) Preliminary Propaganda.

November 7th. 2.—Local Aspects.
(a) Parliamentary Elections.
(b) Local Government Elections.
Lecturer: Miss BERRY.

November 14th. 3.—General Campaign.
Opener: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

November 21st. 4.—Canvassing. Opener: Miss MACADAM.

November 28th. 5.—"Should Women follow Ordinary Election Methods."
Opener: Mrs. HOW MARTYN.

The Classes will last 1 1/2 hours, of which half an hour will be devoted to questions and discussion.

Lectures will be held at 5.30 p.m. at the Offices of the N.U.S.E.C.
Price:— 5/- for Course. Single Lectures 1/6.
Tickets to be obtained from the N.U.S.E.C.

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National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship

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Hon. Secretary: MRS. A. K. GAMER.
Hon. Treasurer: MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.
Secretaries: MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS. HUBBACK (Information and Parliamentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarters Notes.

Sex - Disqualification (Removal) Bill.

Owing in part to the Railway Strike, and in part to the shortness of time, it has not been easy for many Societies to arrange deputations to their Members of Parliament on this most important Bill while those Members were in their own constituencies.

Headquarters is therefore prepared to arrange deputations on behalf of individual affiliated societies to their own Members in London. Such deputations would consist of certain Members of the Executive Committee, the Parliamentary Secretary, and Members of the Society in question, and anyone whom the Society would care to send on its behalf. Mrs. Hubback would be glad to hear, as soon as possible, which Societies would care to have such deputations arranged.

The great need for bringing pressure to bear on the Government is well known to affiliated societies, so it is hoped that many such will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Classes on Election Work.

Particulars will be found in the adjacent column.

List of Women Candidates.

The information contained in this list has been supplied by the Women's Municipal Society, and includes names received as late as Wednesday morning, October 22nd. An additional list will be published in our next issue.

Borough.	Candidates and Wards.
Battersea	Mrs. Diedericks, 37, Park Road, St. John's Hill. Mr. Ganley, 5 Thirsk Road, Lavender Hill. (No. 5.) Mrs. Champ, 11, Heaver Road, Battersea. (No. 5.) Mrs. Hockley, 88, Wariner Gardens, Battersea. Mrs. Marriott, 175, Broomwood Road, Battersea. (No. 1.)
Bethnal Green ...	Miss Edith Brown, 13, Park Road, S.W. 18. (No. 6.) Mrs. Nicholson. (N.E.) Mrs. Hollings, 19, Victoria Park Square. Mrs. Sutherland.
Camberwell	Mrs. E. Morris, 23, Eynella Road, Dulwich Park. Mrs. Bracy Wright. (N. Peckham.) Miss Anderton. (Ruskin.) Mrs. Swales. (St. Mary's.) Mrs. Reay. (The Rye.) Mrs. Taylor. (St. John's.) Mrs. Mockford. (Alleys.) Mrs. Ricketts. (Marlboro'.) Mrs. Piggott. (College.) Mrs. Lusigmea. (St. Mary's.) Mrs. Phillips. (No. 8.)
Chelsea	Mrs. Hubert Walter, 19, Cheyne Place, S.W. 3. Mrs. Curteis, 3, Glebe Place, Chelsea, S.W. 3. Mrs. Hewitt, 155, Sloane Street, S.W. 1. Lady Phipps, 21, Carlyle Square, S.W. 1. Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, 32, Sloane Gardens. The Hon. Miss Brand. Miss Maud. Miss Mackenzie. Miss Crawley. Mrs. Smith. Miss Patterson Nicholls.
Deptford	Mrs. Warcup, 8, St. James' Road, S.E. 14. (S.W.) Mrs. Cockerton, 103, Up. Brockley Rd., S.E. 4. (S.) Mrs. Charlton. (S.E.) Miss Jacob, 16, Tressillian Crescent, S.E. 4. (S.W.) Mrs. Tiffen, 51, Sprules Road, S.E. (S.) Mrs. Drapper. (N.W.) Mrs. Humphries. (E.)
Finsbury	Mrs. Lord, 24, St. John's Street, E.C. 1. Miss Freshfield, 36, King's Square, E.C.
Fulham	Mrs. Dicker. (St. Philip's.) Mrs. Chapman. (St. John's.) Mrs. Cunis, Hulyton, Beaconsfield Road, S.W. Mrs. Smiles, 62, Waldemar Mansions, S.W. 6. Mrs. Gilliatt (Lillie). Mrs. Renton. Miss Henneker. Mrs. Linshaw. Mrs. Greenwood.
Greenwich	Mrs. Cooper Key. (N.W.) Mrs. Edwards, 135, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E. 3. Miss Sherman, 2 Gloucester Place. (S.) Mrs. Cunis, Hulyton, Beaconsfield Road, S.E. Mrs. Kelly, 142, Woolwich Road, S.E. (Marsh.) Mrs. Smith. (Charlton.)
Hackney	Mrs. Benwell. (Stamford Hill.) Mrs. Ashdown. (Clapton Park.) Mrs. Mustard, 49, Moresby Road. (Stamford Hill.) Mrs. Muirhead. (West.) Mrs. Pearson. (Clapton Park.) Commissioner Cox, 4, Mildenhall Road. (Downs.)
Hammersmith ...	Mrs. E. Boyce. (Clapton Park.) Mrs. Brown. (Hackney.) Mrs. Bibby. (S. Hackney.) Mrs. Eldon. (Downs.) Mrs. Jewell, 108, Sinclair Road, S.W. 14. (No. 2.) Mrs. Squire. (Rivers.) Mrs. C. H. Watt. Mrs. Snowdon. (Brook Green.) Mrs. McVeigh. (Grove and Ravenscourt.) Mrs. Mallinson. Mrs. Stevens. (St. Stephen's.) Mrs. Magee. (Wormholt.) Mrs. Pickett. (College Park.) Mrs. Dow. (No. 1.) Mrs. Armholts. (No. 4.) Mrs. Clayton. (No. 1.) Miss Balkwill, 16, Ellerdale Road, N.W. 3. (No. 6.) Miss Fawcett, 17, Lyndhurst Road, N.W. 3. (No. 2.) Mrs. Bedford. (7.) Mrs. Foster. (7.) Mrs. Vernon. (7.) Mrs. Anderson. (7.) Mrs. Blues. (3.) Mrs. Munro. (3.) Mrs. Thompson. (3.) Mrs. Burns. (2.) Mrs. Etheridge. (2.) Mrs. White. (2.) Mrs. Maddox. (5.) Mrs. Parsons. (5.) Mrs. Smith. (5.) Miss N. Mareh. Miss Dibden.
Hampstead	Mrs. Southgate. (S.) Mrs. Andrews. (E. Highbury.) Mrs. Sharpe. (Mildmay.) Mrs. Taylor. Nurse Wilks. (Upper Holloway.) Miss Miriam Price. (Highbury.) Mrs. Campbell. (Lower Holloway.) Miss Johnson. (Canonbury.) Miss Smedley. (Canonbury.) Mrs. White. (Highbury.) Miss Chitty. (Earl's Court.) Miss Joseph. (Holland.) Mrs. Davidson. (Pembroke.) Miss Cunliffe. (Earl's Court.) Mrs. Drake. Mrs. Fuller. (Red Cliff.) Miss Brinton. (Holland.) Mrs. Farrott. (Pembroke.) Miss Benthams. (Earl's Court.) Miss Keeling. (Norland.) Miss Haynes. (Brompton.) Miss Corthen. (Queen's Gate.) Mrs. d'Albion. (St. Charles.) Dr. Benthams. (Coulton.) Mrs. Humphries. (Coulton.)
Holborn	Miss Reiss. Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Parsons. Miss Powell. Mrs. Hare, 67, Herne Hill Road, S.E. 24. Mrs. Wyatt. (Brixton.) Mrs. Evans, 37, Chestnut Road, W. Norwood.
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